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7. J. F. Fulton (New Haven). — *Edward Wotton (1492—1555): Zoologist, Physician, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.*

Edward Wotton, the first zoologist of England, was a classicist by training, and his book, *De differentiis animalium,* a superbly printed folio published at Paris in 1552, contains a faithful and well assimilated summary of descriptions of animals made in antiquity. Though steeped in classical tradition, Wotton made a number of original observations: separating the zoophytes, revising the insects and he also described certain animals peculiar to England. He therefore represents, in England at least, a transition between the era of the New Learning and the age of observation and experiment. Of the details of Wotton's life there is little record. His father was head bedel of divinity at the University of Oxford, and Edward began his career as a chorister at Magdalen College (1503). In 1506 he became a demy and later Fellow of the College. As a student at Magdalen he came under the influence of John Claymond whose unpublished translation of Pliny still exists in manuscript in the Magdalen College Library. On becoming head of the Corpus Christi College, Claymond gave Wotton an appointment with a three year leave of absence which allowed him to study Greek and to take his medical degree in Italy (Padua). On returning Wotton taught Greek at Oxford for several years, then settled in London in medical practice, becoming Fellow of the College of Physicians and President of that body from 1541 to 1543. He died in 1555, three years after the publication of his book. Wotton's work came to the attention of Conrad Gesner who commented upon it in favourable terms in the fourth volume of his *Historia animalium*, published in 1558. Wotton's work on the insects, unpublished at the time of his death, was extended by Mouffet and ultimately published at London in 1634, under the title *Theatrum insectorum* (English translation in E. Topsell's *History of four-footed beasts*, London, 1658).

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